Ukraine

Revision as of 04:23, 31 March 2022 by Alicia-abdula-mcdonald (talk | contribs) *(→Quotes: Veteran Intelligence Professionals... letter warning of dangerous situation in Ukraine & Zelenzkyy dated April 2021)*
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Ukraine (Ukrainian: *Україна*) is a country in Eastern Europe. Ukraine borders the Russian Federation to the east and northeast, Belarus to the northwest, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to the west, Romania and Moldova to the southwest, and the Black Sea and Sea of Azov to the south and southeast, respectively. It has an area of 603,628 km2 (233,062 sq mi), making it the largest country entirely within the European subcontinent.

in Ukraine you don't build a democracy; it already exists. You just defend it. ~ Petro Poroshenko

If the country controlled by Kyiv didn't fracture in 2014, when the government and army were weak, polarization was high, and Putin could have invaded with impunity, it won't. ~ Alexander J. Motyl

Quotes

- In carrying out the Declaration on State Sovereignty of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic solemnly proclaims
  the independence of Ukraine and the creation of an independent Ukrainian state - Ukraine.
  The territory of Ukraine is indivisible and inviolable.
  From now on in Ukraine only the Constitution and laws of Ukraine are in force.
  This act takes effect from the moment of its approval.
  - Original: здійснюючи Декларацію про державний суверенітет України, Верховна Рада Української Радянської Соціалістичної Республіки урочисто проголошує незалежність України та створення самостійної Української держави — України.
    Територія України є неподільною і недоторканною.
    Віднині на території України мають чинність виключно Конституція і закони України.
    Цей акт набирає чинності з моменту його схвалення.
  - *Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine* (1991). Text of the act (http://enciclopedia.us.es/index.php/Documento:Acta_de_Declaraci%C3%B3n_de_Independencia_de_Ucrania_(1991)).
- I was supposed to announce that there was another billion-dollar loan guarantee [for Ukraine]. And I had gotten a commitment from Poroshenko and from Yatsenyuk that they would take action against the state prosecutor. And they didn't… So they said they had — they were walking out to a press conference. I said, nah... we're not going to give you the billion dollars. They said, you have no authority.

You're not the president. The president said — I said, call him. I said, I'm telling you, you're not getting the billion dollars... I looked at them and said: I'm leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you're not getting the money. Well, son of a bitch. He got fired. And they put in place someone who was solid.

- Joe Biden, Speech at the Council on Foreign Relations (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXA--dj2-CY) (Jan. 23, 2018), quoted in Bethania Palma (9 October 2019), "Does a C-SPAN Video Show Joe Biden 'Confessing to Bribery'? (https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/c-span-video-joe-biden-ukraine/)", *Snopes.com*, retrieved on 2020-03-12 (For context, see Glenn Greenwald below)

- This ignorance of Ukraine has always been aggravating, but no one regarded it as a national security threat until the start of the Kremlin's hybrid war against Ukraine. All that changed when "little green men" began appearing in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. It soon became clear that disinformation would play a key role in the Kremlin's hybrid war, with Russia's information offensive relying heavily on outside ignorance of Ukraine. Ukrainians watched in horror as the country's complex relationship with its Tsarist and Soviet past was reduced to the tribal binary of Russian-speakers versus Ukrainian-speakers. Ukraine was depicted as a fascist junta, a Nazi dictatorship, and a failed state. These nightmarish visions gained remarkable levels of traction in the international media, largely because Ukraine was such an unknown quantity.

  - Vladislav Davidzon and Peter Dickinson, "Ukraine's Needed Media Offensive" (http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/ukraines-needed-media-offensive), Online Features, World Affairs Journal

- After...news outlets have published... emails and texts purportedly written to and from Hunter reflecting his efforts to induce his father to take actions as Vice President beneficial to the Ukrainian energy company Burisma, on whose board of directors Hunter sat for a monthly payment of $50,000... We submitted nine questions to his (Joe Biden's) campaign... that the public has the absolute right to know, including:... whether Biden ever knew about business proposals in Ukraine or China being pursued by his son and brother in which Biden was a proposed participant and, how Biden could justify expending so much energy as Vice President demanding that the Ukrainian General Prosecutor be fired (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXA--dj2-CY), and why the replacement... had a history of corruption allegations — was acceptable if Biden's goal really was to fight corruption in Ukraine rather than benefit Burisma or control Ukrainian internal affairs for some other objective....Though the Biden campaign indicated that they would respond to the *Intercept*'s questions, they have not done so.
  Much of this controversy centers on Biden's aggressive efforts while Vice President in late 2015 to force the Ukrainian government to fire its Chief Prosecutor, Viktor Shokhin, and replace him with someone acceptable to the U.S... **These events are undisputed by virtue of a video of Biden boasting (https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=oesI2RXpfPQ&ab_channel=ByMonaSalama) in front of an audience of how he flew to Kiev and forced the Ukrainians to fire Shokhin, upon pain of losing $1 billion in aid.**

  - Glenn Greenwald, in The Real Scandal: U.S. Media Uses Falsehoods to Defend Joe Biden from Hunter's Emails (https://greenwald.substack.com/p/article-on-joe-and-hunter-biden-censored), October 29, 2020

- All this saber-rattling is despicable. Neither Russia nor Iran threaten the U.S. and there is no reason why the U.S. should be eager to defend Taiwan or Ukraine (and also Israel). China's military budget is minuscule compared to the U.S. and the only real threat it represents is as a competitor on world markets, where it is already dominant in a number of key sectors. The U.S. has to get off this global dominance militarism wagon but how do we do it when both major parties embrace it?

  - Philip Giraldi quoted in In truth the U.S has become a weak and therefore dangerous country, By Martin Love, *Tehran Times* (https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467760/In-truth-the-U-S-has-become-a-weak-and-therefore-dangerous-country), December 5, 2021

- The bill... demands that the administration "not cede to the demands of the Russian Federation regarding NATO membership or expansion." NATO expansion to Ukraine along Russia's borders is the central issue for Moscow. Removing this for discussion obliterates a diplomatic solution to the crisis. Sanctions under the legislation can be imposed for any act, no matter how minor, deemed by Ukraine to be hostile. The sanctions cannot be lifted until an agreement is reached between the government of Ukraine and Russia, meaning Ukraine would be granted the authority to determine when the US sanctions will end. The proposed sanctions, which target Russian banks, the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline, state-owned enterprises and leading members of the government and military, including President Vladimir Putin, also calls for blocking Russia from SWIFT, the international financial transaction system that uses the US dollar as the world's

reserve currency.
"The legislation would grant at least $500 million in foreign military assistance to Ukraine, in addition to the $200 million in new assistance sent over the last month," writes Marcus Stanley. "This makes Ukraine the third leading recipient of US military assistance globally, after Israel, and Egypt. While it wouldn't come close to giving Ukraine the ability to combat Russia on its own, it may come with US military advisors that would increase the danger the US would be drawn into a conflict. The bill also takes steps to directly involve countries bordering Russia in negotiations to end the crisis, which would make it much more difficult to reach an agreement."

  - Chris Hedges, Democrats, the More Effective Evil, *MintPressNews* (https://www.mintpressnews.com/chris-hedges-democrats-effective-evil/279654/), (14 February 2022)

- I was in Eastern Europe in 1989, reporting on the revolutions that overthrew the ossified communist dictatorships that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was a time of hope. NATO, with the breakup of the Soviet empire, became obsolete. President Mikhail Gorbachev reached out to Washington and Europe to build a new security pact that would include Russia. Secretary of State James Baker in the Reagan administration, along with the West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, assured the Soviet leader that if Germany was unified NATO would not be extended beyond the new borders. The commitment not to expand NATO, also made by Great Britain and France, appeared to herald a new global order. We saw the peace dividend dangled before us, the promise that the massive expenditures on weapons that characterized the Cold War would be converted into expenditures on social programs and infrastructures that had long been neglected to feed the insatiable appetite of the military.
There was a near universal understanding among diplomats and political leaders at the time that any attempt to expand NATO was foolish, an unwarranted provocation against Russia that would obliterate the ties and bonds that happily emerged at the end of the Cold War. How naive we were. The war industry did not intend to shrink its power or its profits. It set out almost immediately to recruit the former Communist Bloc countries into the European Union and NATO... The expansion of NATO swiftly became a multi-billion-dollar bonanza for the corporations that had profited from the Cold War.

  - Chris Hedges, Russia, Ukraine and the Chronicle of a War Foretold, *MintPress News*, (https://www.mintpressnews.com/chris-hedges-ukraine-soviet-union-russia-war/279793/) Feb 25, 2022

- In a classified diplomatic cable obtained and released by WikiLeaks dated February 1, 2008, written from Moscow, and addressed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, NATO-European Union Cooperative, National Security Council, Russia Moscow Political Collective, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of State, there was an unequivocal understanding that expanding NATO risked an eventual conflict with Russia, especially over Ukraine. "Not only does Russia perceive encirclement [by NATO], and efforts to undermine Russia's influence in the region, but it also fears unpredictable and uncontrolled consequences which would seriously affect Russian security interests...Experts tell us that Russia is particularly worried that the strong divisions in Ukraine over NATO membership, with much of the ethnic-Russian community against membership, could lead to a major split, involving violence or at worst, civil war. In that eventuality, Russia would have to decide whether to intervene; a decision Russia does not want to have to face. . . . Dmitri Trenin, Deputy Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, expressed concern that Ukraine was, in the long-term, the most potentially destabilizing factor in U.S.-Russian relations, given the level of emotion and neuralgia triggered by its quest for NATO membership . . . Because membership remained divisive in Ukrainian domestic politics, it created an opening for Russian intervention. Trenin expressed concern that elements within the Russian establishment would be encouraged to meddle, stimulating U.S. overt encouragement of opposing political forces, and leaving the U.S. and Russia in a classic confrontational posture."

  - Chris Hedges, Russia, Ukraine and the Chronicle of a War Foretold, *MintPress News*, (https://www.mintpressnews.com/chris-hedges-ukraine-soviet-union-russia-war/279793/) Feb 25, 2022

- Once NATO expanded into Eastern Europe, the Clinton administration promised Moscow that NATO combat troops would not be stationed in Eastern Europe, the defining issue of the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations. This promise again turned out to be a lie. Then in 2014, the U.S. backed a coup against Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych who sought to build an economic alliance with Russia rather than the European Union. Of course, once integrated into the European Union, as seen in the rest of Eastern Europe, the next step is integration into NATO. Russia, spooked by the coup, alarmed at the overtures by the EU and NATO, then annexed Crimea, largely populated by Russian speakers. And the death spiral that led us to the conflict currently underway in Ukraine became unstoppable.

The war state needs enemies to sustain itself. When an enemy can't be found, an enemy is manufactured. Putin has become, in the words of Senator Angus King, the new Hitler, out to grab Ukraine and the rest of Eastern Europe. The full-throated cries for war, echoed shamelessly by the press, are justified by draining the conflict of historical context, by elevating ourselves as the saviors and whoever we oppose, from Saddam Hussein to Putin, as the new Nazi leader.

  - Chris Hedges: Russia, Ukraine and the Chronicle of a War Foretold, *MintPress News*, (https://www.mintpressnews.com/chris-hedges-ukraine-soviet-union-russia-war/279793/) Feb 25, 2022

- It is enlightening to see how pugnacious the U.S. establishment...has been in dealing with the Ukraine crisis. The crisis arguably began when the Yanukovich government rejected an EU bailout program in favor of one offered by Russia. The mainstream media (MSM) have virtually suppressed the fact that the EU proposal was not only less generous than the one offered by Russia, but that, whereas the Russian plan did not preclude further Ukrainian deals with the EU, the EU plan would have required a cut-off of further Russian arrangements. And whereas the Russian deal had no military clauses, that of the EU required that Ukraine affiliate with NATO. Insofar as the MSM dealt with this set of offers, they not only suppressed the exclusionary and militarized character of the EU offer, they tended to view the Russian deal as an improper use of economic leverage, "bludgeoning," but the EU proposal was "constructive and reasonable" (Ed., NYT, November 20, 2014). Double standards seem to be fully internalized within the U.S. establishment. The protests that ensued in Ukraine were surely based in part on real grievances against a corrupt government, but they were also pushed along by right-wing groups and by U.S. and allied encouragement and support that increasingly had an anti-Russian and pro-accelerated regime change flavor.

  - Edward S. Herman in ***War is Our Business and Business Looks Good,*** *Z Magazine* (https://zcomm.org/zmagazine/war-is-our-business-and-business-looks-good/) (28 June 2014)

- The sniper killings of police and protesters in Maidan on February 21, 2014 brought the crisis to a new head. This violence overlapped with, and eventually terminated, a negotiated settlement of the struggle brokered by EU members that would have ended the violence, created an interim government, and required elections by December. The accelerated violence ended this transitional plan, which was replaced by a coup takeover along with the forced flight of Victor Yanukovich. There is credible evidence that the sniper shootings of both protesters and police were carried out by a segment of the protesters in a false-flag operation that worked exceedingly well, "government" violence serving as one ground for the ouster of Yanukovich. Most telling was the intercepted phone message between Estonia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Urmas Paet, and EU Foreign Policy chief Catherine Upton, in which Paet regretfully reported compelling evidence that the shots killing both police and protesters came from a segment of the protesters. This account was almost entirely suppressed in the MSM... There is also every reason to believe that the coup and establishment of a right-wing and anti-Russian government were encouraged and actively supported by U.S. officials.

  - Edward S. Herman in *War is Our Business and Business Looks Good, Z Magazine* (https://zcomm.org/zmagazine/war-is-our-business-and-business-looks-good/) (28 June 2014)

- **There is one question today that is more important than any other question that could possibly be asked, and it's this: Is what the U.S. and its allies are trying to accomplish in Ukraine worth continually risking nuclear armageddon for?** ...Well? Is it? It's not really a question you can just compartmentalize away from if you have integrity. It demands to be answered. Is it worth it to continue along this trajectory? Is it? Is it really? Perhaps there might be some things that would be worth risking the life of every creature on earth to obtain, but is refusing to concede to Moscow's demands in Ukraine one of them? Whatever your values are, whatever your analysis is, whatever beliefs you've been holding to justify your support for the west's side of this conflict, will you still proudly stand by them if you look outside and see a mushroom cloud growing in the distance?

  - Caitlin Johnstone: The Single Most Important Question In The World Right Now, *Consortium News* (https://consortiumnews.com/2022/03/01/caitlin-johnstone-the-single-most-important-question-in-the-world-right-now/) March 1, 2022

- Unfortunately, it's US "diplomacy" which brought the US, Russia, Ukraine, and NATO to the current standoff. As the Warsaw Pact disintegrated and the Soviet Union collapsed, US encouragement for those events included pledges that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization wouldn't take advantage of the situation to expand eastward. Since then, NATO has inexorably pushed in that direction, nearly doubling the number of

member states. Thanks, US "diplomacy."... Things began coming to a head with the US-sponsored coup in Ukraine that replaced its "Russia-friendly" regime with a "US/Europe-friendly" regime in 2014, courtesy of Barack Obama. Thanks, US "diplomacy."
Then in 2019, the US withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which forbade the US to place missiles within surprise strike distance of Russia, and Russia to place similar missiles within surprise strike distance of NATO. The US followed up by placing exactly such missiles in Poland, courtesy of Donald Trump. Some "diplomacy."... Then the US went into overdrive (courtesy of Trump and Biden) against the opening of a pipeline (Nord Stream 2) which would have supplied Russian natural gas to Germany. The pipeline would have been a force for peace insofar as Russia likes to sell natural gas (at a fraction of prices the US can offer), and Germans like to not freeze to death.

There is one question today that is more important than any other question that could possibly be asked, and it's this: Is what the U.S. and its allies are trying to accomplish in Ukraine worth continually risking nuclear armageddon for? ~ Caitlin Johnstone (https://consortiumnews.com/2022/03/01/caitlin-johnstone-the-single-most-important-question-in-the-world-right-now/)

- Ukraine: US "Diplomacy" is the Problem. Can it Become the Solution? Thomas Knapp, (https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/02/23/ukraine-us-diplomacy-is-the-problem-can-it-become-the-solution/) *CounterPunch*, February 23, 2022

- The European Union and many of its countries, which used to take initiatives in the United Nations for peaceful settlements of conflict, are now one of the most important war assets of the U.S./NATO front. Many countries have also been drawn into complicity in breaking international law through U.S./U.K./NATO wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and so on.

  - Mairead Maguire in ***The Disturbing Expansion of the Military-Industrial Complex***, *Common Dreams*, (https://www.commondreams.org/views/2014/10/14/disturbing-expansion-military-industrial-complex) (14 October 2014)

- If the country controlled by Kyiv didn't fracture in 2014, when the government and army were weak, polarization was high, and Putin could have invaded with impunity, it won't in 2016.

  - Alexander J. Motyl, "The Negativists are Wrong on Ukraine" (http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/alexander-j-motyl/negativists-are-wrong-ukraine) (15 January 2016), *Ukraine's Orange Blues*, *World Affairs Journal*.

- In 2014 Ukraine, great power gamesmanship, righteous anger at a corrupt status quo, and opportunistic far-right extremists toppled the government in the Maidan Revolution. Today's crisis in Ukraine can't be understood without understanding Maidan... It's January. A defiant crowd of protesters, a jumble of bodies where far-right extremists rub shoulders with everyday people, wants the head of the elected president. They chant anti-government slogans, occupy government buildings, and carry arms — some of them makeshift melee weapons, some of them hunting rifles and Kalashnikovs. By the time it's all said and done, the demonstrations will lead to the death and hospitalization of both protesters and police. It's not the Capitol riot in Washington that so horrified Americans and foreign observers in 2021. This was the Ukrainian Maidan Revolution (or Euromaidan), which right around this time eight years ago actually succeeded in toppling the country's elected government, sending then president Viktor Yanukovych fleeing for his life to neighboring Russia.
  Nearly a decade on, the 2014 Revolution of Dignity, as it's known in Ukraine, remains one of the more widely misunderstood episodes of recent history. Yet understanding it is critical to understanding the ongoing standoff over Ukraine, which can largely be traced back to this polarizing event — depending on who you ask, an inspiring liberal revolution or a far-right coup d'état.

  - A US-Backed, Far Right–Led Revolution in Ukraine Helped Bring Us to the Brink of War by Branko Marcetic, *Jacobin Magazine*, (https://jacobinmag.com/2022/02/maidan-protests-neo-nazis-russia-nato-crimea) February 7, 2022

- Shadows and Lies: The 2014 revolution in Ukraine was an enormously complicated affair. Yet for most Western observers, many of its basic, well-documented facts have been either excised to push a simplistic,

black-and-white narrative, or cast as misinformation and propaganda, like the crucial role of the far right in the revolution.
Like today's Russia-NATO tensions more broadly, at the heart of the Maidan protests was the push by some Western governments, especially the United States, to isolate Russia by supporting the integration of peripheral parts of the former Soviet Union into European and Atlantic institutions — and Moscow's pushback against what it saw as an encroachment on its sphere of influence. In truth, the Maidan Revolution remains a messy event that isn't easy to categorize but is far from what Western audiences have been led to believe. It's a story of liberal, pro-Western protesters, driven by legitimate grievances but largely drawn from only one-half of a polarized country, entering a temporary marriage of convenience... **The tragedy is that it served largely to empower literal neo-Nazis while enacting only the goals of the Western powers that opportunistically lent their support — among which was the geopolitical equivalent of a predatory payday loan.** It's a story tragically common in post–Cold War Europe... and the Western failure to understand it has led us to a point where **Washington continues to recklessly involve itself in a place full of shadowy motives, shifting allegiances, and where little is what it seems on the surface.**

  - A US-Backed, Far Right–Led Revolution in Ukraine Helped Bring Us to the Brink of War by Branko Marcetic, *Jacobin Magazine*, (https://jacobinmag.com/2022/02/maidan-protests-neo-nazis-russia-nato-crimea) February 7, 2022

- Many people seem to feel that the breakup of the Soviet Union was the end of the Cold War. That's wrong. It had ended two years before that. And the breakup of the Soviet Union did not occur because of Western pressure; it occurred because of internal pressures within the Soviet Union. And it was something that President Bush did not wish. As a matter of fact, one of his last speeches, when there was a Soviet Union, was in Kyiv, when he advised Ukrainians to join Gorbachev's voluntary federation, that he was proposing, and actually warned against suicidal nationalism. Those words, you know, are not remembered much now. People seem to think that Ukraine is free because of the end of the Cold War and the pressure of the West as one of the fruits of victory in the Cold War. This is simply incorrect. It turns history upside down...

  - Jack F. Matlock Jr., Ex-U.S. Ambassador to USSR: Ukraine Crisis Stems Directly from Post-Cold War Push to Expand NATO (https://www.democracynow.org/2022/2/17/jack_matlock_ukraine_russia_nato_us), *Democracy Now!*, February 17, 2022

- Ukraine is showing Belarus an example of how one should fight for freedom. I am sure that our countries have a common future in Europe, where neither Ukrainians nor Belarusians will die.

  - Vladimir Neklyaev, a Belarusian opposition leader, quoted on *CBS News*, "As Ukraine protests grow, slain demonstrators mourned" (http://www.cbsnews.com/news/as-ukraine-protests-grow-slain-demonstrators-mourned/), January 26, 2014.

- The chips are down, as much of the US-equipped and backed Ukrainian military appears to have turned and ran as Russian forces approached. That is not to say that there has not been death and destruction on both sides. The battle for Kherson was brutal, with plenty of Russian losses. But nevertheless, as of this writing, it has fallen to Russian control. Kiev in the main may well fall within the next 12-24 hours. Russian troops are already in the city. And Zelensky is in his bunker with fewer and fewer to take his calls. The cavalry he believed was promised him will not be coming to rescue him. Ukraine will be de-militarized and Ukraine will be neutral. Once held up as a great ally of Washington and Brussels, Zelensky is alone...
The bitter truth is that Washington's foreign policy establishment never actually considered Zelensky – or his predecessor Poroshenko – to be allies or partners of the United States. Overflowing with a toxic mix of ignorance, arrogance, and extreme cynicism, Washington's elites have always viewed Ukraine as a tool to "regime-change" a Russia that, after its post-Yeltsin recovery, would no longer take its direction from them.

  - Daniel McAdams, Washington's Crocodile Tears Over Ukraine's Destruction (http://www.ronpaulinstitute.org/archives/featured-articles/2022/february/25/washingtons-crocodile-tears-over-ukraines-destruction/), *The Ron Paul Institute for Peace & Prosperity* February 26, 2022

- Whether America and the EU like it or not, the era of *We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality" is well and truly over. Its end is not to be mourned but to be celebrated. The only pro-America foreign policy is non-intervention in the affairs of others.*
Ukrainian President Zelensky is unlikely to survive his turn being America's cat's paw to wrong-foot Russia.

While he sits in his bunker contemplating his fate, he may well be visited by the ghosts of Saddam and Gaddafi and all those who preceded him in this position. God help him.

  - Daniel McAdams, Washington's Crocodile Tears Over Ukraine's Destruction (http://www.ronpaulinstitute.org/archives/featured-articles/2022/february/25/washingtons-crocodile-tears-over-ukraines-destruction/), *The Ron Paul Institute for Peace & Prosperity* February 26, 2022

- Last spring the hoopla about Russia invading Ukraine died an ignominious death when nothing happened. This autumn, the latest Russia-will-invade boogeyman was already on life-support when the pro-western Ukrainian president decided to goose it November 26 with the breathless proclamation that Moscow intended to overthrow him "next week." When that didn't happen, on December 4, the Washington Post hyperventilated about Russia igniting a war, like, any day, in an anonymously sourced piece of exemplary CIA stenography, worthy of the fantasies published in the run-up to the U.S. 2003 invasion of Iraq.... **So Russia hesitates and the U.S. screams. What else is new? Don't get me wrong: NATO and the U.S.'s idiotic brinksmanship on Russia's borders could yet cause real damage. But wild-eyed speculation about the Kremlin's intentions has so far run aground on Russia's apparent reluctance to engage in a shooting war that could spiral into a full-on nuclear holocaust.... In early November CIA chief William Burns trekked to the Kremlin amid worries about a Russian troop buildup. As if Russia can't move its military around WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS without catapulting the west to high alert.**

  - Dangerous Games: Western Militaries on the Doorsteps of Russia and China (https://www.counterpunch.org/2021/12/10/dangerous-games-western-militaries-on-the-doorsteps-of-russia-and-china/), by Eve Ottenberg (https://truthout.org/authors/eve-ottenberg/), *CounterPunch*, December 10, 2021

- How likely is doomsday? Well back to Ukraine, regarding which, on December 1, Russian President Putin asked the west for legal guarantees that it would cease eastward expansion. This request, made because Washington's word is worthless (vide just for starters, the Iran nuclear pact, and President George H.W. Bush's promise that NATO would never, ho, ho, expand to Russia's borders) and met with scoffs by the white house, comes amid complicated tensions. The Kiev military recently claimed it used Turkish attack drones "in combat against ethnic Russian rebels," Finian Cunningham reported October 28 in Information Clearing House. This is not good. Turkey is in NATO. If Turkey gets tangled up in the Ukraine imbroglio, that substantially escalates things. According to Anatol Lieven in *Responsible Statecraft* on November 24, "Moscow is especially alarmed by Ukraine's acquisition of Turkish Bayraktar combat drones," used to such deadly effect by Azerbaijan in its 2020 conquest of Armenian territory. Unlike the F-35, these things actually work.

  - Dangerous Games: Western Militaries on the Doorsteps of Russia and China (https://www.counterpunch.org/2021/12/10/dangerous-games-western-militaries-on-the-doorsteps-of-russia-and-china/), by Eve Ottenberg (https://truthout.org/authors/eve-ottenberg/), *CounterPunch*, December 10, 2021

- I work on the assumption that most people really want peace. Because of this, there needs to be a lot of propaganda, along with lies, intimidation and fear mongering in order to get people to foolishly acquiesce to war. This week, news broke regarding the emails of NATO Commander (https://theintercept.com/2016/07/01/nato-general-emails/) and U.S. General Philip Breedlove. Apparently Breedlove was plotting behind the scenes against Obama, who was not as confrontational with Russia as Breedlove would have liked. All back-channels were used to put pressure on Obama and U.S. public opinion about what was happening in Ukraine. One would think that this would be a major story in the media. But after The Intercept broke the news (https://theintercept.com/2016/07/01/nato-general-emails/), it was picked up by a few other outlets, and then fell off the face of the Earth!
  NATO should have disbanded after the Cold War, just as the Warsaw Pact did. Instead of disbanding, NATO proceeded to gobble up Eastern European countries that were formerly a part of the Warsaw Pact. The "regime change" and absorption of Ukraine into NATO would put them right on Russia's border. **NATO is not a friend of peace. We don't need it.**

  - Ron Paul in *NATO Is Not A Friend of Peace* (http://www.ronpaullibertyreport.com/archives/ron-paul-nato-is-not-a-friend-of-peace) (5 July 2016)

- Ukraine is another media triumph. Respectable liberal newspapers such as the *New York Times, the Washington Post* and the *Guardian,* and mainstream broadcasters such as the *BBC, NBC, CBS, CNN* have played a critical role in conditioning their viewers to accept a new and dangerous cold war. All have

misrepresented events in Ukraine as a malign act by Russia when, in fact, the coup in Ukraine in 2014 was the work of the United States, aided by Germany and NATO. This inversion of reality is so pervasive that Washington's military intimidation of Russia is not news; it is suppressed behind a smear and scare campaign of the kind I grew up with during the first cold war. **Once again, the Ruskies are coming to get us,** led by another Stalin, whom *The Economist* depicts as the devil. **The suppression of the truth about Ukraine is one of the most complete news blackouts I can remember.** The fascists who engineered the coup in Kiev are the same breed that backed the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. Of all the scares about the rise of fascist anti-Semitism in Europe, no leader ever mentions the fascists in Ukraine - except Vladimir Putin, but he does not count.

- John Pilger, Inside the Invisible Government: War, Propaganda, Clinton & Trump (http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article45752.htm), *Information Clearing House*, October 28, 2016

NATO should have disbanded after the Cold War, just as the Warsaw Pact did... Instead of disbanding, NATO proceeded to gobble up Eastern European countries that were formerly a part of the Warsaw Pact. The "regime change" and absorption of Ukraine into NATO would put them right on Russia's border. ~ Ron Paul

- Many in the Western media have worked hard to present the ethnic Russian-speaking population of Ukraine as outsiders in their own country, as agents of Moscow, almost never as Ukrainians seeking a federation within Ukraine and as Ukrainian citizens resisting a foreign-orchestrated coup against their elected government. There is almost the joie d'esprit of a class reunion of warmongers. The drum-beaters of the *Washington Post* inciting war with Russia are the very same editorial writers who published the lie that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.
  - John Pilger, Inside the Invisible Government: War, Propaganda, Clinton & Trump (http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article45752.htm), *Information Clearing House*, October 28, 2016
- These days in Europe, many countries are sympathetic towards Ukraine and the situation here - of course, this touches a lot of people from different states. The fact that volunteers and government organizations work together on this and these kinds of humanitarian actions happen - is not unique, but it proves, that there are a lot of regular folks out there who care about Ukraine and its future
  - Juris Poikans, Latvia's Ambassador to Ukraine, quoted on *UAToday* (February 11, 2016), "Latvia sends more aid to Ukraine" (http://uatoday.tv/politics/latvia-sends-more-aid-to-ukraine-589114.html)
- In Ukraine, you don't build a democracy; it already exists. You just defend it and exactly this. What makes Ukraine unique, its struggle deeply and profoundly...
  - Petro Poroshenko, speech to the U.S. Congress (https://www.c-span.org/video/?321426-1/ukrainian-president-petro-poroshenko-address-congress&start=1496) (18 September 2014)
- Ukrainian society is less ambiguous today and Ukrainian identity is becoming increasingly civic rather than ethnic, and increasingly incompatible with a supra-ethnic, non-civic, quasi-religious, East Slavonic identity. While civic unity and civic identity are on the rise, Ukrainian attitudes toward Russians remain rather positive, in contrast to the highly negative Russian attitudes toward Ukrainians. First, Ukrainian media do not practice hate speech and propagandistic brainwashing on the scale of the Russian media. And second, Ukrainians are much less inclined to identify the people with the state; their loathing of Putin has not translated into a similar attitude toward common Russians. Many Ukrainians still want open borders and good relations with Russia, even though that’s increasingly impossible at a time of war.
  - Mykola Riabchuk, as quoted in "Ukrainian Identity After the Euromaidan" (http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/alexander-j-motyl/ukrainian-identity-after-euromaiden) (29 March 2016), by Alexander J. Motyl, *Ukraine's Orange Blues*, World Affairs Journal

- The bottom line is that Russia has set forth a cognizable claim under the doctrine of anticipatory collective self defense, devised originally by the U.S. and NATO, as it applies to [[w:Chapter_VII_of_the_United_Nations_Charter#Article_51| (Charter of the United Nations) Article 51]] which is predicated on fact, not fiction. While it might be in vogue for people, organizations, and governments in the West to embrace the knee-jerk conclusion that Russia's military intervention constitutes a wanton violation of the United Nations Charter and, as such, constitutes an illegal war of aggression, the uncomfortable truth is that, of all the claims made regarding the legality of pre-emption under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, Russia's justification for invading Ukraine is on solid legal ground.
  - Scott Ritter, Russia, Ukraine & the Law of War: Crime of Aggression (https://consortiumnews.com/2022/03/29/russia-ukraine-the-law-of-war-crime-of-aggression/)], *Consortium News*, March 29, 2022
- Hitler and Stalin rose to power in Berlin and Moscow, but their visions of transformation concerned above all the lands between. Their utopias of control overlapped in Ukraine. Hitler remembered the ephemeral German eastern colony of 1918 as German access to the Ukrainian breadbasket. Stalin, who had served his revolution in Ukraine shortly thereafter, regarded the land in much the same way. Its farmland, and its peasants, were to be exploited in the making of a modern industrial state. Hitler looked upon collectivization as a disastrous failure, and presented it as proof of the failure of Soviet communism as such. But he had no doubt that Germans could make of Ukraine a land of milk and honey. For both Hitler and Stalin, Ukraine was more than a source of food. It was the place that would enable them to break the rules of traditional economics, rescue their countries from poverty and isolation, and remake the continent in their own image. Their programs and their power all depended upon their control of Ukraine's fertile soil and its millions of agricultural laborers. In 1933, Ukrainians would died in the millions, in the greatest artificial famine in the history of world. This was the beginning of the special history of Ukraine, but not the end. In 1941 Hitler would seize Ukraine from Stalin, and attempt to realize his own colonial vision beginning with the shooting of Jews and the starvation of Soviet prisoners of war. The Stalinists colonized their own country, and the Nazis colonized occupied Soviet Ukraine: and the inhabitants of Ukraine suffered and suffered. During the years that both Stalin and Hitler were in power, more people were killed in Ukraine than anywhere else in the bloodlands, or in Europe, or in the world.
  - Timothy D. Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*. E-book, New York: Basic Books, 2010
- Dear President Biden, We last communicated with you on December 20, 2020... we alerted you to the dangers inherent in formulating a policy toward Russia built on a foundation of Russia-bashing. While we continue to support the analysis contained in that memorandum... **We wish to draw your attention to the dangerous situation that exists in Ukraine today, where there is growing risk of war unless you take steps to forestall such a conflict... 1. It must be made clear to Ukrainian President Zelensky that there will be no military assistance from either the US or NATO if he does not restrain Ukrainian hawks itching to give Russia a bloody nose — hawks who may well expect the West to come to Ukraine's aid in any conflict with Russia.... . We recommend that you quickly get back in touch with Zelensky and insist that Kiev halt its current military buildup in eastern Ukraine. Russian forces have been lining up at the border ready to react if Zelensky's loose talk of war becomes more than bravado.... 3. It is equally imperative that the U.S. engage in high-level diplomatic talks with Russia to reduce tensions in the region and de-escalate the current rush toward military conflict. Untangling the complex web of issues that currently burden U.S.-Russia relations is a formidable task that will not be accomplished overnight. This would be an opportune time to work toward a joint goal of preventing armed hostilities in Ukraine and wider war.**
  - Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, *Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity*: on Avoiding War in Ukraine (https://worldbeyondwar.org/veteran-intelligence-professionals-for-sanity-on-avoiding-war-in-ukraine/), *World Beyond War*, April 07, 2021, Antiwar.com (https://www.antiwar.com/blog/2021/04/06/veteran-intelligence-professionals-for-sanity-on-avoiding-war-in-ukraine/)*, Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity (http://www.ronpaulinstitute.org/archives/featured-articles/2021/april/07/veteran-intelligence-professionals-for-sanity-on-avoiding-war-in-ukraine/), (April 2021)*
- Ukraine has always aspired to be free: but being surrounded by Muscovy, the states of the Sultan, and Poland, a protector had to be sought, and consequently a master in one of these three states. She first put herself under the protection of Poland, who treated her too much as subject. She then gave herself to the Muscovite, who governed her as a slave as much as he could. At first the Ukrainians enjoyed the privilege of

electing a prince under the name of general; but soon they were stripped of this right, and their general was appointed by the court of Moscow. (L'Ukraine a toujours aspiré à être libre : mais étant entourée de la Moscovie, des états du grand-seigneur, et de la Pologne, il lui a fallu chercher un protecteur, et par conséquent un maître dans l'un de ces trois états. Elle se mit d'abord sous la protection de la Pologne qui la traita trop en sujette : elle se donna depuis au Moscovite, qui la gouverna en esclave autant qu'il le put. D'abord les Ukrainiens jouirent du privilège d'élire un prince sous le nom de général ; mais bientôt ils furent dépouillés de ce droit, et leur général fut nommé par la cour de Moscou.)

  - Voltaire 1731, *Histoire de Charles XII* (History of Charles XII), p 161.

- **Any signature to a deal on forming a new Soviet Union means the breakup of the country**.
  - Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a prominent opposition member, quoted on *BBC News*, "Ukraine's capital Kiev gripped by huge pro-EU demonstration" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25290959), December 8, 2013.

Interview with Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn on Ukraine (May 1994)

by Paul Klebnikov, in the (9 May 1994), issue (https://www.forbes.com/2008/08/05/solzhenitsyn-forbes-interview-oped-cx_pm_0804russia.html) of *Forbes magazine*

- Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, [historian] Richard Pipes and many other American politicians... are frozen... with unchanging blindness and stubbornness they keep repeating... this theory about the supposed age-old aggressiveness of Russia, without taking into consideration today's reality.
- Imagine that one not very fine day two or three of your states in the Southwest, in the space of 24 hours, declare themselves independent of the U.S.... declare themselves a fully sovereign nation, decreeing that Spanish will be the only language. All English-speaking residents, even if their ancestors have lived there for 200 years, have to take a test in the Spanish language within one or two years and swear allegiance... Otherwise they will not receive citizenship and be deprived of... (their) rights. Today Russia faces precisely this scenario.
- In 24 hours she lost eight to 10 purely Russian provinces, 25 million ethnic Russians who have ended up in this very way--as "undesirable aliens." In places where their fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers have lived since way back--even from the 17th century--they face persecution in their jobs and the suppression of their culture, education and language...
- Russia today is terribly sick... But even so, have a conscience and don't demand that – just to please America – Russia throw away the last vestiges of her concern for her security and her unprecedented collapse. After all, this concern in no way threatens the United States....
- Why does the (U.S.) State Department decide who should get Sevastopol?...
- As a result of the sudden and crude fragmentation of the intermingled Slavic peoples, the borders have torn apart millions of ties of family and friendship. Is this acceptable? The recent elections in Ukraine, for instance, clearly show the [Russian] sympathies of the Crimean and Donets populations. And a democracy must respect this....
- I myself am nearly half Ukrainian. I grew up with the sounds of Ukrainian speech. I love her culture and genuinely wish all kinds of success for Ukraine--but only within her real ethnic boundaries, without grabbing Russian provinces. ...
- And not in the form of a "great power," the concept on which Ukrainian nationalists have placed their bets. They are acting out and trumpeting a cult of force, persistently inflating Russia into the image of an "enemy." Militant slogans are proclaimed. And the Ukrainian army is being indoctrinated with the propaganda that war with Russia is inevitable.

- For every country, great power status deforms and harms the national character. I have never wished great power status for Russia, and do not wish it for the United States. I don't wish it for Ukraine. She would not be able to perform even the cultural task required to achieve great power status: In her current borders, 63% of the population consider Russian to be their native language... And all these people will have to be re-educated in the Ukrainian language...

- Before the Russian revolution, they [U.S. and Russia] were natural allies. You know that during the American Civil War, Russia supported Lincoln and the North [in contrast to Britain and France, which supported the Confederacy]. Then, we were effectively allies in the First World War. But beginning with communism, Russia ceased to exist. ...

- Yet an official U.S. document from 1959, the Law 86-90, does not include Russia in the list of nations oppressed by communism. On the contrary, "Russian imperialism," not communism, is held responsible for the conquest of some 20 countries--even China, Tibet and some made-up place called "Kazakia." One is amazed that this silly law is still on the books, even today....This was not Russian imperialism, which in the past only expanded its borders somewhat. This was communist imperialism, which aimed to take over the whole world... This is complete delirium! When was Russia ever in Africa? When did Russia ever want to snatch Angola or Cuba? When was she ever in Latin America? The historical Russia has never tried to take over the world, whereas the communists had precisely this aim...

- If one recalls the tactless declaration of President Bush about supporting Ukrainian sovereignty even before the referendum on that matter, one must conclude that all this stems from **a common aim: to use all means possible, no matter what the consequences, to weaken Russia**....

- If one looks far into the future, one can foresee in the 21st century such a time when the U.S. together with Europe will be in dire need of Russia as an ally. ...It is puzzling only for those who don't look into the future and do not see what kind of new powers are arising in the world...

Child Poverty and Disparities in Ukraine Report: UNICEF report (2021)

Lead authors: Nataliya Borodchuk and Liudmyla Cherenko, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Ukraine and Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, 2021 (Download full report 5.1 mb, PDF (https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FINAL-poverty-report-ENG-web.pdf))

- Today, child poverty must be understood against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. As many households lose their income, more children are likely to be deprived of their basic needs. In Ukraine alone, the socioeconomic crisis could potentially push as many as 1.8 million children into poverty. However, our conviction is that child poverty is a problem that can be resolved.

- Poverty has lifelong consequences for children. A child living in poverty is more likely to go on to be poor as an adult. The cost of inaction is very high. Ukraine's National Poverty Reduction Strategy expired in 2020. This chapter draws on a poverty analysis that was conducted, and proposes recommendations for the Government, the international community, the private sector and the population at large. Implementing these recommendations could help to ensure that the progress in poverty reduction is sustained, the impact of COVID-19 is mitigated, and the country moves towards progressive realization of equal opportunities for children.

- In 2019, the absolute poverty rate of families with children was 47.3 per cent, and the relative poverty rate was 29.1 per cent. For comparison: the poverty rates in families without children were 34.3 per cent and 19.0 per cent respectively. In absolute terms, 3,470,222 Ukrainian children were below the national poverty line... in 2019. In total, 13.6 per cent of households with children were extremely poor while only 8.0 per cent of households without children were extremely poor.

- A clear correlation can be seen: the more children in a family, the higher the risk of it falling into poverty. In particular, families with one child experience an equivalent level of poverty to Ukraine's average level but the birth of the second child raises poverty by 50 per cent, to 38.1 per cent for relative poverty and 61.8 per cent for absolute poverty. Poverty rates are highest in large families (with three or more children), 59.7 per cent of which live in relative poverty and 81.2 per cent in absolute poverty.... Children in the youngest age groups — under 3 years of age — are the most affected by monetary poverty. In older child groups, the poverty rate is somewhat lower but still above the national average. The monthly payment of childbirth benefit does not compensate for the loss of earnings caused by the mother being on childcare leave.

- The poverty rate is much higher in households with children with at least one unemployed person than in households with children and no unemployed persons: 44.3 per cent compared to 29.1 per cent live in relative poverty, and 61.0 per cent compared to 47.3 per cent in absolute poverty. Generally, among the most vulnerable in terms of depth of poverty are families with an unemployed member and children below 3 years old.
- Single-parent families also live in extremely vulnerable situations in terms of deprivation poverty. The poverty rate of single-parent families is considerably higher than that of families with two children (52.2 per cent versus 38.9 per cent), which even exceeds the deprivation poverty of families with many children (49.4 per cent). Deep deprivation (4 of 9 deprivations) among single-parent families is 31.8 per cent, which is lower that in large families (34.7 per cent).
- Among female headed households with children (generally single-parent families), the poverty rate exceeds the figure for male headed households: 30.1 per cent compared to 28.6 per cent for relative poverty, and 51.7 per cent compared to 48.2 per cent for absolute poverty. Poverty is rather high among multi-generational families, where persons of older age groups live alongside children and their parents: 34.9 per cent or 58.4 per cent, depending on the poverty criterion.
- The average pension is lower than the poverty line indicator, therefore the overwhelming majority of pensioners reduce the overall household income. Secondly, living in a large family is often necessary because of low income and lack of opportunities to move out. Hence, it can be assumed that in many cases not that the risk of poverty is driven by the household composition but rather that the household composition is affected by low living standards.

See also

- NATO
- 2021–2022 Russo-Ukrainian crisis

External links

- Encyclopedic article on Ukraine on Wikipedia
- The dictionary definition of ukraine on Wiktionary
- Media related to Ukraine on Wikimedia Commons
- Works related to Portal:Ukrane on Wikisource
- Wikijunior:Europe/Ukraine on Wikibooks
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